

A Newspaper Devoted to the Welfare of All Workers by Hand or Brain

# The Canadian Railroader Weekly

Official Organ of

THE FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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## "The Gazette's" Answer

WE are very grateful to The Montreal Gazette for publishing our views concerning the incorporation of unions. We hope that every trade unionist reads The Gazette, but in case some might have missed the editorial, commenting upon our article, which appeared in the August 20th issue of The Gazette, we are very glad to publish it in full herewith.

"The Canadian Railroader, which speaks for an important division of organized labor in Canada, deals at length with the fact that it is practically impossible to hold trades unions responsible for the agreements they make with employers or for damages incurred through strikes that by the regulations of the unions themselves are often illegal. To the suggestion that action might be taken to remedy this state of affairs under which only one party to a labor bargain is effectively bound, through the incorporation of the unions, the Railroader declares that labor will never accept it. The reasons for this position are put plainly. They are that under incorporation the funds of the organizations would be subject to federal laws, and there would be responsibility for each individual member of the organizations concerned in a strike which involved the breaking of an agreement. It is suggested further that if such a law should be enacted it would tend to put control of the unions into the hands of the more wild and reckless, through its causing the older and economical members to give up their membership through fear of losing such property as they may have accumulated. In reply to this latter suggestion it might be retorted that the feeling on the part of the conservative members that they had property at stake might make them more assertive and so, possibly, prevent some strikes such as those in Winnipeg recently which caused such hurt to

the cause of organized labor. This, however, does not affect the main issue which is that so many members of unions are ready to disregard the conditions of agreements, often sought for them by their own representatives, that a bargain with a labor organization is not necessarily an assurance that the employer concerned therein can depend on its terms being fulfilled. He may, as many in Winnipeg and other cities have lately learned, have his establishment closed on account of a dispute with which neither he, others in his line of production, nor anyone in his locality, have any direct concern. That state of affairs is not an embodiment of justice, and those who oppose even the suggestion of a remedy are thinking more of other things than they do of justice."

There are two errors of judg-

ment in this editorial. The first lies in the retort "that the feeling on the part of the conservative members that they had property at stake might make them more assertive and so, possibly, prevent some strikes such as those in Winnipeg recently which caused such hurt to the cause of organized labor." Our reply to this is that there would be no conservative members to exercise the restraint. In the recent strike of the actors damage suits have been prepared that aggregate two million dollars. The publicity given to this extraordinary situation would be sufficient to drive every property owning trade unionist out of the union in twenty-four hours. The simple fact is that there would be no conservative members to put up a fight for conservative policies.

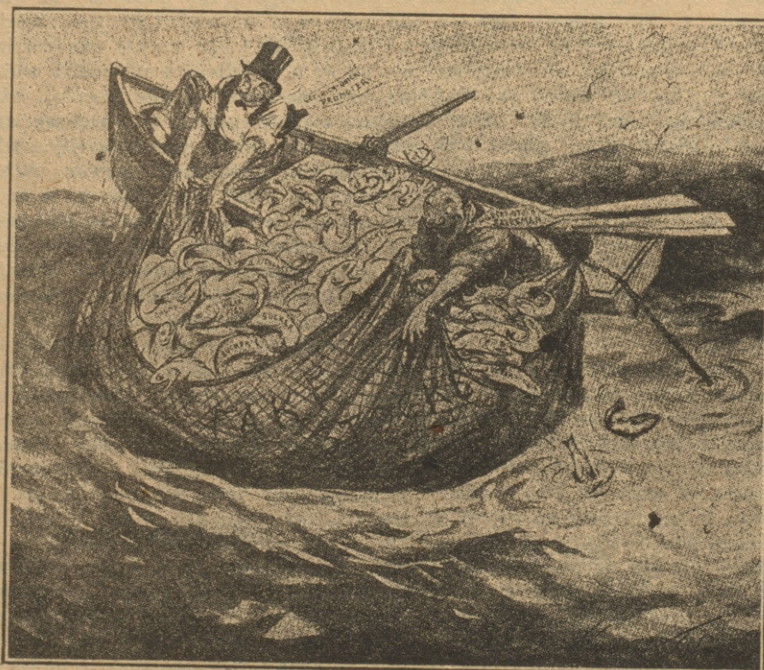
The second misconception may be found in the statement "That state of affairs is not an

embodiment of justice, and those who oppose even the suggestion of a remedy are thinking more of other things than they do of justice." It is true that we oppose the remedy suggested by The Gazette, but it is not a fact that merely because we happened to be in opposition to this particular proposal that we are "thinking more of other things than that of justice." We merely felt it our duty to the Canadian people to place our special knowledge of the Canadian Labor Movement before the people in an effort to prove that the policy of The Gazette, however well intentioned, would inevitably defeat the very aims and objects for which we are all striving—industrial peace and security.

No one who has read the Canadian Railroader can possibly be ignorant of the fact that from the very beginning we have advocated legislation and reforms which would be in the interest and for the common good of all the people. Our cry has been that the nation cannot advance unless all classes prosper, and that both labor and capital have need to shape their course so that the defenceless public will not be victimized or made to suffer by one or the other, or both, of the two contending groups.

The situation which developed in Winnipeg was not a trades union upheaval. It was an organization composed of returned soldiers and workers, and non-unionists, who organized not a trades unionist movement but a sociological and political organization. Every international trades union repudiated the work of the new organization. Every effort was made by every international official connected with the international unionist movement to induce the workers with

(Continued on page 9.)



There has been an epidemic of "Get-rich-quick" promoters and "Wildcat" salesmen in the United States and the *Saturday Evening Post* in the above cartoon depicts the haul of "suckers".



## Our OTTAWA LETTER

**T**HE Liberal programme devised on August 5, 6, 7 contained many progressive features and admirable items and was a radical production for a convention composed in the main of the moderately prosperous elements of the community. Of course it bears all the earmarks of the influence of the movements of the organized farmers, which are in rural Canada obviously eating into the strength of the two historic parties.

The Liberals have evidently made up their mind after their experiences of 1911 that they have nothing to hope for from the Manufacturers' Association and have decided to become the "country" party. They have made a long approach to meet the programme of the Canadian Council of Agriculture and are now anxiously waiting to see that the response will be.

On many points there is a possibility of harmonious cooperation, and it would be a great misfortune if there occurred at once election contests in which Liberal and farmer candidates were found cutting one another's throats. Too many farmers are prone to believe that everyone dwelling within the confines of a city or town is a greedy capitalist, who lives a life of Sybaritic luxury and Babylonian iniquity on the plunder exacted from the toiling agriculturists, and has not an atom of sympathy with the latter's struggles and aspirations.

### A False Picture.

It is an interesting picture, but it is quite false. In every urban community in Canada there are large groups of men, who have a deep understanding and sympathy with the viewpoint of the farmer, who believe that agriculture has in years gone by been shamefully neglected and loaded down with onerous burdens and who hold that the only salvation of Canada lies in a complete change of economic outlook and policy and a concerted effort to build up a prosperous and attractive rural civilization.

Some of the ablest presentment of the farmers' case has come from men who never were on a farm on their lives. Now it is this large and growing body of urban opinion which has forced the Liberal party to adopt the major part of the farmers' programme—the step was not taken with any enthusiasm by the old professional politicians and experts of the machine. They would have preferred a platform which offered better prospects of copious party funds from the overflowing treasuries of our corporations. But if there immediately arises a bitter conflict between the Liberals and the farmers in the constituencies, a deadly blow will be dealt at the progressive elements in the Liberal party. They will immediately be

told by the gentlemen of the "machine": "There you are, we knew it, no matter how far you go, you cannot appease these farmers".

### Reaction Would Flourish

There would be little answer to this indictment and reaction would flourish apace in the Liberal party, which, after all, is very strongly entrenched in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, containing 40 per cent of the seats in the country. What the Liberals deserve is a chance whereby the sincerity of their professions may be tested. If they show the slightest signs of repeating the backsliding performances which distinguished their regime from 1900 onwards, they must be given short shrift by these forces in the country, which are bent on ending the present muddle and exploitation.

The considerations referred to apply equally to the labor as to the agrarian movement. It is not for a moment suggested that the farmers' organizations and the Labor party should make any hard and fast alliance with Liberalism, even in the latter's present progressive mood, or meekly yield even for a space their own plans and aspirations to suit the convenience of official Liberals. But they should avoid needless quarrels and bickerings and seek opportunities of cooperation rather than occasions for conflict.

### One Barrier Exists

There is, however, one barrier to successful and thorough cooperation between the Liberal and the agrarian and labor movements. Of the delegates who assembled in Ottawa for the Liberal Convention on August 5, only a mere fraction had ever contemplated or were prepared to countenance an economic and social regime of which the existing system of capitalistic investment and production for profit was not the keystone. Now the finer spirits and many of the leaders in the agrarian and labor movements have before their eyes, dimly in many cases, a vision which seeks to substitute the ideal of the cooperative commonwealth for the capitalistic system.

They decline to believe that the latter is the last word in civilization; they believe that, whereas it was of manifest utility in the early days of the industrial revolution, it has now more or less outlived its day; it has become an object of criticism and hostility on the part of large masses of people who believe it fails to yield them a fair share of the good things of this earth. It is being attacked on every side, and the uncompromising attitude which many of its leading champions assume by way of defence, is directly responsible for the continual spread of that form of proletarian revolt,

which the motor-owning classes of the world call Bolshevism. There is grave danger to-day in the world of a universal revolt in all countries of the industrial masses, which whether it succeeded or failed would ensure a train of events calculated to bring grave damage and discredit to our civilization. Now the advocates of the substitution of cooperation in production and distribution desire to avert the shock of such an upheaval and provide a means of transition from the present order of things to a more satisfactory civilization.

### Ills Go Much Deeper.

The average Liberal in Canada has the idea that the present economic order can be rid of its imperfections by a few judicious reforms and so altered as to bring a large modicum of happiness and prosperity to every citizen of Canada. He thinks that the safe restoration of political democracy by a fair franchise and improved electoral machinery, coupled with downward revision of the tariff, will allay all the ills and relieve all the burdens under which the country groans.

But our present evils go far deeper than any temporary perversion of democracy for electioneering purposes and profiteering of tariff-protected combines. As a community we have reached the state described thus by Mr. J. A. Hobson in his "Democracy after the War":

"Where the product of industry and commerce is so divided that wages are low, while profits, interest and rent are relatively high, the small purchasing power of the masses sets a limit on the home market for most staple commodities. The staple manufacturers, therefore, working with modern mechanical methods that continually increase the pace of the output are in every country compelled to look more and more for export trade and to hustle and compete for markets in the backward countries of the world. Just as the home market was restricted by a distribution of wealth which left the mass of the people with inadequate power to purchase and consume, while the minority who had the purchasing power either wanted to use it in other ways or to save it and apply it to an increased production which still further congested the home markets, so likewise with the world markets... Closely linked with this practical limitation of the expansion of markets for goods in the limitation of profitable fields of investment. The limitation of home markets implies a corresponding limitation in the investment of fresh capital in the trades supplying these markets".

### Home Market Poor

Could there be a more accurate picture of our present economic condition? We have a distribution of wealth which leaves the mass of the people with inadequate power to purchase and consume; as a result our manufacturers and business mandarins find the home market for many staple commodities distinctly

poor. Hence the pressure on the Government to finance the export and sale of manufactured goods to Roumania, Greece and other countries. The bankers see that there is now a limitation of fields of domestic investment, productive of such high profits as they desire. Hence our stronger banks are sending their emissaries far and wide in search of strategic locations to establish branches from which new business in foreign countries can be tapped.

Our financial kings have no use for the ideal of a "National Policy" in banking; they are cosmopolitans and free traders in money in the broadest sense. Our chartered banks, however, are the corner-stones of the existing economic system and the success of their operations for their shareholders is no guarantee of their efficacy to the general community.

### No Longer Accepted

The competitive capitalist system which our bankers and manufacturers will fight to the last ditch to defend, is based fundamentally on a financial perversion of the law of supply and demand. It sets up the claim that there exists an intrinsic relation between needs or requirement and legitimate price or exchange value. But this theory is no longer accepted in connection with monopoly values in respect of public utility undertakings to provide light, water and transportation. Taking his stand on an economic system based on this assumed relation, the capitalistic producer will only sell his product for a sum in excess of what it cost him, receiving payment through the agency of money in its various forms of cash or financial credit.

Money and credit may be defined as any medium which has reached such a degree of acceptability that no matter what is made of or why people want it, no one will refuse it in exchange for his product.

So long as these definitions hold good, it is clear that the possession of money or financial credit convertible into money establishes an absolute lien on the services of

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others in direct proportion to the fraction of the whole stock controlled, and, further, that the whole stock of financial wealth, inclusive of credit, in the world, should by the definition be sufficient to balance the aggregate book price of the world's material assets and prospective production. It is commonly assumed that the banks regulate the figures of wealth by the creation of credits representing the mobilization value of such assets. This value is for financial purposes the transfer or selling price, but bears not the slightest relation to the usage value of the article thus appraised.

#### System of Figures

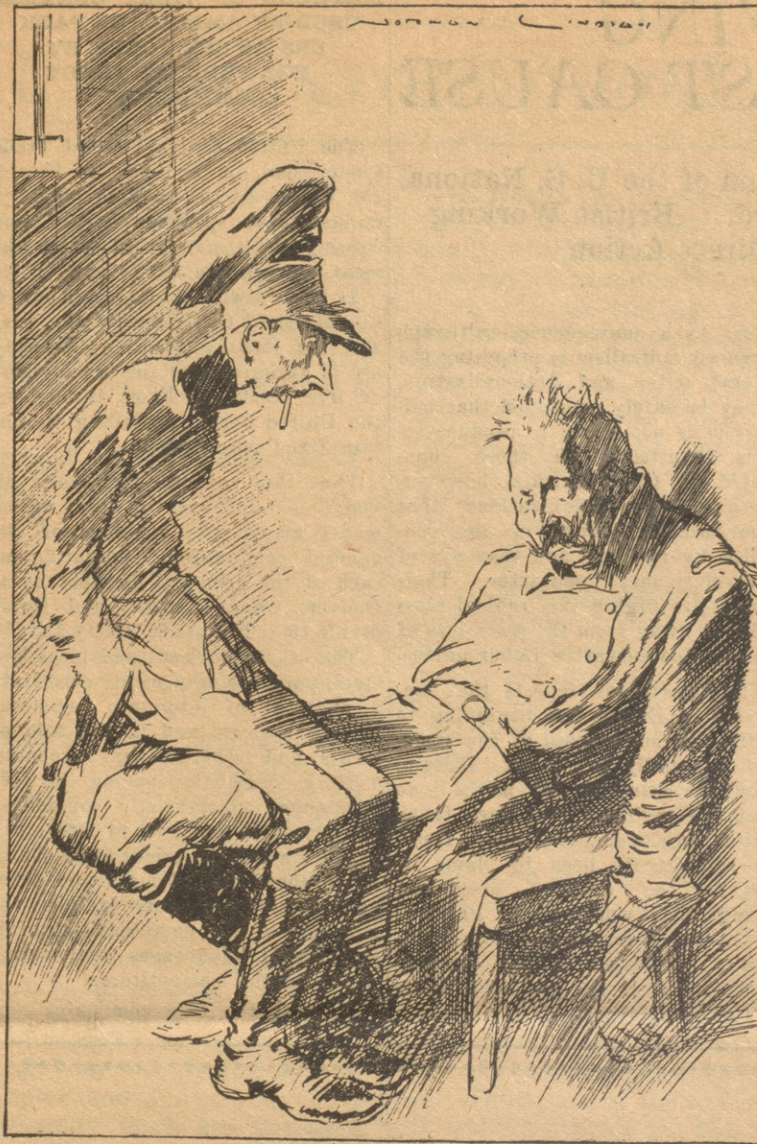
Now the book value of the world's stocks is always greater than the apparent financial ability to liquidate them, because these book values include credits already mobilized. Therefore the creation of subsidiary financial media in the guise of bank credits becomes imperative and results in the piling up of a system of figures which the accountant calls capital, but which are in reality merely a function of prices. The inevitable effect of this process is to decrease progressively the purchasing power of money, or, in other words, to concentrate the lien on the services of others, which money gives, in the hands of those whose rate of increase is most rapid.

The process of the concentration of wealth under the existing system is logically inevitable and is proceeding with ever increasing rapidity. Parallel with this there is a centralisation of personal control of the productive and distributive machinery, which has probably been carried to greater perfection in Canada than in any other country.

#### Creditism The Word

The truth is that the word capitalism is now a misnomer; the driving force of the system which, more than any single cause, has produced the tangle of unrest and confusion in which the world is now plunged is creditism.

Consider for a moment the growth of credit in Canada. It is probable that what may be called our national plant has deteriorated very considerably since 1914, but the amount of paper money and bonds, which are simply insignia of credit standing, to be liquidated by the Can-



THE CROWN RABBIT:—"What did you do in the great war, papa?"  
—"Sydney Bulletin."

adian people, has enormously increased in that period. The real wealth of the country has only increased by a small fraction, but the credit wealth of the country has increased by leaps and bounds.

The increment, it is true, is concentrated in comparatively few hands, thanks to the operations of our existing financial system. But it is patent that the community creates all the credit capital there is, and it is high time that it assumed some control of the commodity it creates. There is no hope of better times for the people of Canada till this problem of the control of credit by a limited number of estimable gentlemen, who, however willing they may be to subsidize colleges and art galleries, are not notorious for devotion to the economic interests of the plain folk of Canada, is boldly tackled and solved by some political party or other.

There is nothing whatever to prevent the community entering into control of its own creation and making use of it to its own great profit. The Commonwealth of Australia some years ago established a Commonwealth Bank which started with no backing save the credit of the community and the prospect of gov-

ernment deposits. Its inevitable and hopeless failure was prophesied by every private financier in the country, but it has belied all these gloomy forebodings, has gone ahead from strength to strength and is now the most powerful financial institution in Australia. It gives the Australian people some control over their credit system, and through it of their economic destinies. The question of the repayment of the war debt is closely entangled with the problem of control of credit and together they are the most important which confront the country.

But a great convention of a national party passed them both over in silence and concentrated its attention on matters which are merely biproducts and effervescences of the larger evil.

J. A. S.

#### A REFERENDUM OF STEEL WORKERS

To force union recognition, a nation-wide strike in the steel industry is now being voted upon by the membership of the twenty-four international unions that are cooperating to organize the industry. The National Committee for Organizing

Iron and Steel Workers recommended the strike vote, stating that the action was made necessary by the refusal of Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation, to reply to a letter from Samuel Gompers asking for a conference with the steel heads for the purpose of working out an agreement covering wages, hours and working conditions in the steel mills.

Meanwhile the denial of free speech to organizers of the American Federation of Labor continues in Western Pennsylvania. At Braddock, on July 6, five organizers were arrested for participating in a street meeting after a permit had been denied. The same day William Z. Foster, secretary of the National Committee for Organizing Iron and Steel Workers, and J. L. Beaghen, a general organizer of the American Federation of Labor, were arrested in Homestead for speaking on the street after the chief of police had informed them that no meetings would be permitted. They were convicted of violating a city ordinance and fined. The case will be taken to a higher court.

Out of the 500,000 workers who are directly connected with the steel industry, more than 100,000 are now organized, largely owing to the efforts during the past year of the National Committee for Organizing Iron and Steel Workers. This committee is now headed by John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, elected to fill the place of Samuel Gompers, who resigned upon his recent departure for Europe.

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# COST OF LIVING IS UNREST CAUSE

**So Reports Special Commission of the U. S. National Industrial Conference Board. — British Working Classes Opposed Direct Action.**

The most practical cause of the present industrial unrest in Great Britain, France and Italy is the rise in the cost of living, is the interim report of the special commission of the U. S. National Industrial Conference Board, which visited those countries last spring for the purpose of studying the industrial situation there.

In Great Britain, the Commission says that although laborers are very largely organized, there is a great body of conservative workingmen who have a fundamental respect for law and order. While they may have been touched by the revolutionary ideas, they are directly opposed to any overturning of the existing social system. There is, however, a minority that is both enterprising and noisy and who appear opposed to calm and cool discussion, adopting a more radical revolutionary programme. They seek the immediate nationalization of essential industries and the general "democratic" control of industry as well as of the State. They advocate drastic measures of taxation upon capital and a complete change in the ownership of land.

The radicals and the moderates in British Labor differ, the commission reports, especially in their methods of action. The moderates are willing to proceed according to the constitution of their unions; they are willing to gain their ends by a step-by-step movement. The radicals will not brook restraint, but are for the immediate "direct" action. The most typical representatives of the radical Labor element are to be found in the Triple Alliance, which is made up of the organized workers among the coal miners, the transport workers, and the railway men. This is the dangerous element in England today, the commission says, and must be brought under control to avoid industrial disaster.

In France, while there is a large socialistic element which has a number of deputies in the assembly, "the chief Labor organization has officially recognized an economic relation between wages and productive efficiency." The war has united France as she was not united before.

The commission reports that in Italy the laborers are not largely unionized. The radicals dominate the unions and in case of disputes usually control the conservative element. "In general, it was found in Great Britain, France and Italy that a very large percentage of the working classes were opposed to methods of force or to action against law and

order. As a consequence, although advanced radicalism is proposing the general strike and nationalization, it may be safely concluded that bolshevism is not likely to produce serious disturbance in these countries." In Great Britain, however, the new Labor organizations that have recently sprung up are controlled by radicals, and they are of a revolutionary character. Their leaders are urging this radical class to break away from the restraints of the more conservative Labor unions.

The commission reports that employers in Europe are beginning to realize the seriousness of the situation, especially in Great Britain. They are searching for methods to meet the problems that face them. British employers, the report finds, have admittedly been to blame in part for the existing discontent among their workingmen. Previous to the war they had not been sufficiently interested in the working conditions or in the general attitude of their employees.

## METHODS OF MEAT CONTROL USED BY AMERICANS PACKERS AS SET FORTH BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

The United States Federal Trade Commission, in its report to President Wilson on the packing industry, makes these specific charges concerning the "manner in which the meat combination works now":

1. That Swift & Co., Armour & Co., Morris & Co., Wilson & Co., Inc., and the Cudahy Packing Company are in an agreement for the division of live stock purchases throughout the United States according to certain fixed percentages.

That this national live stock division is reinforced by local agreements among the members of the general combination operating at each of the principal markets, as at Denver, where Armour and Swift divide their live stock "fifty-fifty".

That these national and local live stock purchase agreements constitute a restraint of interstate commerce in live animals and in the sale of meats and other animal products, stifling competition among the five companies, substantially controlling the prices to be paid to live stock producers and the prices to be charged to consumers of meat and other animal products and giving the members of the combination unfair and illegal advantages over actual and potential competitors.

2. That the five companies ex-

change confidential information which is not made available to their competitors and employ jointly paid agents to secure information which is used to control and manipulate live stock markets.

3. That the five companies act collusively, through their buyers in the purchase of live stock, their specific collusive activities embracing:

(a) "Split-shipments" purchases, whereby, through the interchange of information, the split lots are made to sell at the same price on different markets regardless of how many packers are involved in marketing the purchase.

(b) "Part purchases", whereby two or more packers join in purchasing the live stock of one shipper or producer, each taking a part of a shipment at the same price.

(c) "Wiring on", whereby a shipper who forwards his live stock from one market to another for the purpose of securing a better price is punished regardless of which packer he sells to in the second market.

(d) Making the "dave" market, whereby a common live stock buying policy for all the big packers at the principal markets substantially controls the basic prices to be paid throughout the United States.

Late buying, where all the buyers of the big packers stay out of the market for one or more hours after the opening for the purpose of depressing prices, is one of the means in making the market.

4. That Swift & Co., Armour & Co., Morris & Co., and Wilson & Co., Inc., through their subsidiary and controlled companies in South America, combined with certain other companies to restrict and control shipments of beef and other meats from South America to the United States and other countries.

5. That the five companies—Swift & Co., Armour & Co., Morris & Co., Wilson & Co., Inc., and the Cudahy Packing Company—act collusively in the sale of fresh meat, their specific collusive activities embracing:

(a) Exchange of information regarding "margins" realized in the sale of meat;

(b) Inspection of one another's stocks of fresh meats; and

(c) Joint action in underselling independent competitors by a system of rotation, each of the members of the combination in turn assuming the burden of cutting prices to the competitor's customers.

6. That there is a joint combination regarding funds expended under secret control to influence public opinion and Government action, and thus to maintain the power of their combination.

7. That the agreements, understandings, and pools hereinbefore recited are reinforced by the community of interest among the five companies above named through joint ownership, either corporate or individual, of various enterprises. Two or more of the five interests thus have joint ownership or representation in 108 concerns, as far as ascertained to July, 1918.

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## C. P. R. Co-operation and Service

Another illustration of the reason for the efficiency of the C.P.R., and the fine co-operation between the Company and its employees, is found in a letter which has just been issued to all C. P. R. conductors by Mr. Alfred Price, General Manager. Team-work means the service which the C. P. R. gives, and this team-work is secured, not by any arbitrary ordering of things, but by such kindly and co-operative methods as the letter referred to, and which is here given in full:—

### Letter Issued By General Manager To All Conductors of Company.

Mr. Conductor, Can. Pac. Ry.

Dear Sir:—

This letter is being addressed to all passenger Conductors on Eastern Lines, but it is nevertheless intended as a very personal message to you.

Ever since the early eighties when its passenger train service was first inaugurated, the courtesy of Canadian Pacific Railway Conductors and other train and station employees has been proverbial. Even from the beginning practically all employees who had to deal directly with the public took a pride in the new enterprise and the reputation for courtesy established by the pioneers in the service has been perpetuated by the newer and younger men.

The responsibilities you have to assume and the many duties you have to perform are fully appreciated. It is well understood that in addition to conforming to numerous exacting train rules, you have jurisdiction over employees and the care of every passenger on your train, and that there are many things to worry, perplex and annoy you. It is common knowledge that occasionally there are unreasonable, disagreeable and even quarrelsome people to deal with, and under such circumstances it is extremely hard to maintain one's equanimity. It is however, in just such a situation that you have an opportunity of showing your real worth to the Company by preserving a courteous, calm and dignified demeanor.

Remember that you are carrying passengers from day to day who are not accustomed to railway travel, and who find everything in connection with their first trip exceedingly strange. Such passengers need special consideration.

Some women are accompanied by irritable and obstreperous children who are most trying upon the nerves. A little kindly attention from you will help them to stand the strain. You may be handling American, European and Asiatic travellers, who are making their first trip on a Canadian Pacific train. They have heard of Canadian Pacific efficiency and courtesy and are on the lookout for a demonstration of both. If you are true to the traditions of the service, you will not disappoint them. Every day you are collecting tickets from people who control the routing of large volumes of freight. They are judging the Canadian Pacific Railway by you, and if they are impressed by your efficiency, courtesy and patience, their further patronage will probably be assured.

It is recognized that the present unexampled position of the Canadian Pacific Railway is due in large measure to the quality of the work of its employees and to their unswerving loyalty and devotion to the Company's interests. We have no monopoly of most of the traffic we are handling, and competition is growing keener every day. If therefore the Canadian Pacific and its employees are to continue to prosper, the company must retain the admiration, the confidence and the good will of its old friends, and it must also win new friends in ever increasing numbers.

As there are such vast multitudes of people who travel on Canadian Pacific trains—over fifteen millions per year—it would not be even remotely possible for the Company's officials to meet any large proportion of them, so as to foster and develop amongst them the proper sentiment, while you and the other employees through whom the public transacts its business with the Company come into personal contact with all these people. This gives you and the other passenger conductors of the system, the unparalleled opportunity of making friends for the company of over 40,000 persons every day of the year. Feeling assured of your pride in being a vital part of our great transportation organization, and of your attachment to and interest in all that pertains to its welfare, you can without doubt be depended upon to do your part in binding more closely to it the old friends, and winning to it the new friends who are so necessary to its continued prosperity.

Yours very truly,

A. PRICE.

### RAILWAY SHOPMEN'S STRIKE CALLED OFF

#### Decision at Conference in Chicago—Strike Started in Defiance of Officers

The U. S. railway shopmen's strike is off. This is the decision of representatives of the strikers from widely scattered points throughout the country after an all day meeting at Chicago. While the shopmen's representatives were in session, a mass meeting of car repairers, representing about 27,000 strikers, also decided to return to work.

The shopmen's meeting was called by the Chicago district council, which called the strike August 1, in defiance of the international officers of the shop crafts who were in session in Washington negotiating

with Director General Hines, of the Railroad Administration.

The Chicago leaders had estimated the number of men on strike at about 300,000. The railroads generally were severely crippled, especially in the Chicago, Boston and Atlanta districts.

The end of the strike will open the way for the international officers of the shop crafts to obtain action by the Railroad Administration. The shopmen have demanded 85 cents an hour for the skilled workers and 60 cents for helpers.

#### IN AGAIN, OUT AGAIN !

Flivver: What's the most you ever got out of your car?

Second ditto: I think seven times in one mile is my record.

### BAIL WAS REFUSED

Bail was refused the eight Winnipeg strike leaders by Mr. Justice J. D. Cameron, of the Court of Appeals, at Winnipeg. The accused, William Ivens, R. B. Russell, John Queen, A. A. Heaps, R. E. Bray, W. A. Pritchard, R. J. Johns and George Armstrong, were accordingly taken into custody by the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and escorted to the provincial jail, where they will remain until they appear for trial at the October Assizes, unless counsel for the defence can obtain their freedom from one of the other judges in higher courts.

Mr. Justice Cameron refused to grant bail on the ground that the eight leaders had broken their promises, when released on bail the

first time, to abstain from taking an active part in labor unrest; and that they had by public speeches and other activities carried on a campaign of an indiscreet nature. He said he did not feel like taking the responsibility of admitting them to bail.

E. J. McMurray had pointed out that these public utterances had been made in order to raise the necessary funds for the defence. He does not despair of getting bail for his clients, but says that success is doubtful.

#### NOTHING LEFT TO SAY

Little Dorothy: Daddy, what did you say to mother when you made up your mind you wanted to marry her?

Mr. Meek: I said "Yes, dear".



## Montrealers Lose Three-Quarters of a Million Dollars a Year Through Short Weight In Potatoes

**Federal Law Urgently Needed To Protect Working  
Classes Buying Staple Food In Small Quantities;  
Peck Measure A Thing Of Wonderful Varia-  
tions In Hands of Unscrupulous Dealers.**

Montreal housewives lose nearly three-quarters of a million dollars every year through shortage in the peck measure when they are buying potatoes.

When potatoes are bought by the bag, the law states that the bag shall contain 90 pounds, or six pecks, and generally the law is observed, the housewife getting exactly what she pays for. The great majority of housewives, however, buy their potatoes by the peck from the grocer or the peddler, and instead of getting 15 pounds to the peck, seldom get more than 12 pounds and often get only 8 1-2 pounds, or little more than half the weight they have a right to.

The trouble is that while the law specifies the weight of the bag or the bushel of potatoes, it does not specify the weight of the peck, although the weight of the bag is reckoned on the basis of six pecks to the bag. Through this omission in the law, the peck is not sold by weight but by measure, and a loophole is given for considerable variance in weight and widespread practices that are downright dishonest on the part of grocers, peddlers and other dealers.

Practically no grocer gives 15 pounds to the peck, the peck measure of the average grocer rarely containing more than 12 pounds. When a big potato is used to block the bottom of the measure, the total weight is generally less than 12 pounds.

In the case of the peddlers of whom there are 340 in Montreal, many of them sell potatoes from measures with false bottoms, sometimes two and a half inches thick, and also adopt tricky methods of piling the potatoes into the measure, with the result that a peddler's peck averages less than 10 pounds to the peck, and the housewife loses at least five pounds in every peck.

As potatoes constitute one of the staple foods of the people and are probably bought in greater quantities than any other food except bread, it is easily seen what an important part this short weight plays in

the high cost of living. It is nothing less than a crying scandal that the citizens should be robbed in this way, for although there might be a technical loophole in the law, the short weight is morally a crime against the people who cannot afford to buy a bushel or a bag of potatoes at one time.

What is urgently needed is a federal law requiring that potatoes be sold by weight whether in bags, bushels, pecks or any other measure, and an agitation to that end is now afoot and should have the active support of the community.

As it is, any grocer or other dealer trying to give at present 15 pounds to the peck, has to face the competition of perhaps hundreds of short-weight dealers who are practically undisturbed in their trickery and who can, naturally, sell their peck for less money than the honest dealer, as the ordinary housewife pays no attention to the weight.

One big company in Montreal which has its own waggons delivering direct to the consumer, and is selling potatoes in peck or two-peck bags, according to correct weight of 15 pounds per peck, has had to face immense trouble in competition with the sale of the short-weight peck.

Potatoes are probably the most staple food used by the average householder, and probably in the larger cities of the Dominion, seventy-five to eighty percent. of householders buy their supplies in peck or two pecks. It is therefore regrettable to find that in the Dominion there is no legal protection to the peck purchaser, similar to that afforded to the purchaser who can buy in bushel or bag lots. On the face of it, it is apparent that this is a discrimination against the majority consumer, constituting the working man, who is at present suffering more keenly than the wealthier classes, by reason of the increased cost of living. Although the workingman is probably doing more complaining against the high cost of living, still he is not equipped in any way to check the weights and measures of his purchase.

In the matter of potatoes, merchants are protected whereas the average consumer is not. The progress of precision in the average household is slow. We will speak of a handful of sugar, a pinch of salt, a peck of potatoes, where it

would be just as easy and far more satisfactory to specify a definite amount. Before the day of standardization the cost of distributing food stuffs was much greater than it is today, and at the first blush it seems beyond belief that a staple commodity like potatoes should be lacking in thorough standardization as to weights. A great many people otherwise intelligent know almost nothing of the conditions that enter into the purchasing of 90 per cent. of their household supplies. They do not know that the ounce in the drug store is not the same as the ounce used in the grocery store, even when the same article is purchased. They do not realize that a peck of potatoes under present laws may be anything from 8 1-2 pounds to 15 pounds. If we would all take more interest in the quantity of the merchandise, instead of giving our whole attention to the prices asked, the dishonest methods of crooked merchants would not operate so smoothly. Today it is not possible to compare the unit price of potatoes when offered in the usual way of peck unit and the practice of selling potatoes by measures instead of by weight has resulted in the introduction of many fraudulent devices. It is a physical impossibility to get more than 12 pounds of good sized potatoes into a peck measure, and it is possible to make the measure appear filled, when only from nine to ten pounds of potatoes are contained.

Undoubtedly when the laws were amended which make it compulsory that a bag of potatoes shall weigh 90 pounds, potatoes were selling so cheaply that a smaller weight was not considered necessary from the consumer's standpoint, but conditions have changed, and the price of potatoes has advanced considerably in recent years, as a result of the increased cost of fertilizer, higher wages, higher transportation costs, and increased cost of distribution, so that today the average consumer can only afford to buy peck lots, whereas in years gone by he would have bought a bushel at the same cost.

We cannot look for any immediate reduction in the average selling price of potatoes, but we can amend the law so as to protect the peck purchaser, in the same way as the purchaser of a bushel or bag, is now legally protected.

The potato company previously referred to as giving a square deal to its customers, took the matter up with: Mr. E. R. Decary, Chairman of the Administrative Commission, Montreal; Sir Robert Borden; the Minister of Trade and Commerce; Dr. R. J. McFall, Cost of Living Commissioner; and Mr. C. W. Baxter, Fruit Commissioner. The following are points from the correspondence:—

### LETTER TO PREMIER

July 25th, 1910.

To Sir Robert Borden,

Dear Sir:—

I wish respectfully to call your attention to a grave miscarriage in justice in the matter of selling po-

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To H. M. King  
George V.

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tatoes. The existing laws, as you know, cover sales in bags of ninety pounds but permit sale by measure in less than bushels lots.

The law interpretes a bag ninety pounds and a bushel sixty pounds, but there is no clear definition of what a peck should be.

In Montreal there are some 340 peddlers selling potatoes by measure and I am prepared to produce sworn evidence that in many cases only 81-2 pounds are given as a peck. Under existing conditions false bottoms are used in peck measures and padding is put in the bottom of peck measures whereby potatoes are laid, one might say scientifically, so that the measure looks full, when in reality it contains little more than half a peck.

I respectfully bring your attention to this matter and would suggest that some law be introduced because fully seventy-five per cent. of the potatoes sold to the consumer in Montreal are sold in peck lots and the consumers are suffering greatly under existing conditions.

Letter from Dr. McFall.

Ottawa, August 7, 1919.

Dear Sir,

I have before me yours of July 25th, and can merely say in reply that I have gone into the question fully with Mr. Baxter, Fruit Commissioner, and have given all the weight of influence possible in this quarter to speed the matter which

he has in hand of having potatoes sold by weight.

R. J. McFall,  
Cost of Living Commissioner.

#### Fruit Commissioner Writes

Fruit Commissioner's Office,  
Ottawa, August 14, 1919.

Dear Sir,

I have for acknowledgement your letter of the 11th instant and note your reference to the contents of Dr. McFall's letter. The acute shortage of sugar in the Western Provinces, which is causing the British Columbia shippers very great concern, has kept us very busy during the past few days, and I have not had an opportunity of personally interviewing Dr. McFall relative to the matter referred to during our recent interview, but I hope to have an opportunity of doing so in a day or two, and I shall advise you.

Yours faithfully,

C. W. Baxter,  
Commissioner.

#### To Call Conference

Fruit Commissioner Office,  
Ottawa, August 5, 1919.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 25th ultimo, addressed to the Minister of Agriculture, was referred to this office for reply and would have received my attention before this had it not been for my absence from Ottawa.

I note that there is a movement on foot in Montreal to forward a petition to the Minister of Agriculture, asking that some legislation be enacted to make it compulsory

for potatoes to be sold by weight and not by measure, and that you would like to lend your support to this.

I think that in a previous letter I stated that we had hoped to be able to call a conference of potato growers and shippers to discuss the question of potato grades and potato weights. Some time ago we forwarded such a request to the Deputy Minister, and we hope to receive permission from him to carry this out very soon. We did not propose to call this conference, if permitted, until the month of November, when most of the growers would be able to spare the time.

It is unnecessary for me to remind you that when the question of potato weights and grades came up for consideration, Honorable Mr.

### STILL LOVE-MAKING



—“Pittsburgh Sun”

Crerar was Minister of Agriculture, and I know that he approved of action being taken along the lines suggested. I think it would be a very good idea to bring the matter very forcibly to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture whom press reports state is to be Dr. Tolmie. I understand he is expected to take office in the course of a day or two.

Yours faithfully,

C. W. Baxter,  
Commissioner.

From Deputy Minister.

Department of Trade Commerce,  
Ottawa, August 5, 1919.

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of August 2nd, addressed to the Acting Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, and beg to state that the matter will have consideration, though of course no legislation can be effected while Parliament is not in session.

Yours truly,

F. C. T. O'Hara,

#### PUT THE GUILTY PROFITEERS IN JAIL

Said Wiseman Brown the other day,  
“You tell me food's extremely high,

And often you're obliged to pay  
A doubled price for what you buy.  
There is no lack of things to eat,

But these are all nearly controlled  
By speculators on the street,

Who stocks for higher prices hold.  
From farmer down to retail man,

Indeed, it seems to be agreed  
To carry on a gouging plan,

And in their schemes they well  
succeed.

The way to stop all this appears  
Quite plain, the remedy won't

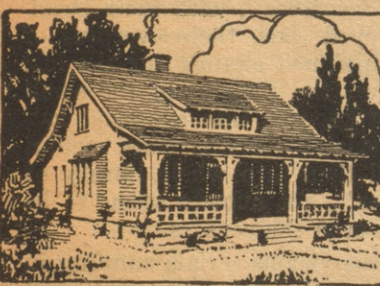
fail:  
Round up at once these profiteers  
And put the guilty ones in jail.”

#### COULDN'T SURVIVE

“What made Latin a dead language,  
pa?”

“Oh, I guess somebody doctored it.”

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WEEKLY

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## An Invitation to the Prince

**W**ELCOME to the Prince of Wales! He comes to our country as a fine, upstanding young man with a war record, and an acceptable symbol of the breadth and unity of the British Empire. If we err at all in the matter of welcome it will be on the side of excess of friendship and goodwill. We will try his patience with many formal addresses and the necessity on his part for many formal replies. Most of these could be dispensed with altogether or sliced to twenty words apiece, and everybody would be happier.

The Prince, after all, is just a human young man. He is probably to a large extent "fed up", as other young men would be, with the constant parade of himself and constant scrutiny by other people. He probably wants a good time, like any other young man, and although a certain amount of formality has to be gone through as a matter of duty, it is a safe bet that he sighs for temporary loss of princely identity. If he would walk into the Railroader office under the name of a plain citizen and put himself at our disposal as a plain citizen for 24 hours, we'd give him a whale of a time that would warm the cockles of his heart and endear him to Canada more than a series of stately functions or a carload of illuminated addresses. The only danger would be that he might become discontented with the Prince business, and want to remain a plain citizen for ever after.

We'll wager, too, that if he sees these lines, as he will unless some officious gentleman servant with a pane of glass in one eye intervenes, he will say, privately at least: "By jove, that's right! I wish I could accept that invitation!"

Anyway, three cheers for the Prince!

K. C.

## Dumb and Other Animals

**O**N Monday afternoon of this week a wagon heavily loaded with pigs, sheep and a calf broke down on Notre-Dame street, near Notre-Dame Church. A hind wheel had come off. The pigs were within the framework of the wagon itself and came to no harm except that they were badly frightened and set up a chorus of squealing. The sheep—perhaps a dozen of them—and the calf had been in two crates piled up on top of the compartment holding the pigs, and these crates were thrown to the street. It was only after a wild scramble in the quickly-gathered crowd that the sheep and the calf were rounded up and returned to the crates, which had been placed at the edge of the sidewalk.

Everybody, of course, was sympathetic towards the poor dumb animals so suddenly brought close to hand in a crowded city street, and within the shadow of one of the most magnificent churches on the American continent!

Well, everybody wasn't — not by a long shot! It was obvious that the sheep were jammed so tightly and hurriedly in the crates that several were in danger of suffocation, their heads being crowded out of sight in the wool of their mates. All were scared and some were hurt in the fall from the wagon and the subsequent scramble. It was great fun to a number of men and boys around. They pulled the tails and twisted the ears of the pigs in the wagon, and the more the pigs squealed the more these fine human beings laughed and joked. They pulled at the wool of the sheep, squeezed their noses and forcibly opened the mouths of the sheep, and they teased the lone calf unmercifully.

Several persons who wanted to save the animals from maltreatment and suffocation had some trouble in getting through the ring of tormenters, but finally succeeded and did what they could for the relief of the unfortunate animals. One sheep on the verge of suffocation was freed just in the nick of time.

The incident was a nice illustration of both the cruelty and the kindness that might go unsuspected in a Christian community save for such a valuable public demonstration.

K. C.

## Those Movie Serials

**T**HE "dime novels" or "penny horrors", with their Dead-wood Dicks and their Slant-eyed Sals, their overplus of sensation and adventure, campaigned against for the last thirty years by those seeking to direct the thought of the small boy into proper channels, have been knocked into a cocked hat, so to speak, by the modern movie serial. There is more vicious "kick" to a reel of the movie serial than to a whole library of "dime novels" and "penny horrors", but nobody seems to be paying any particular attention, not even the censors.

There are at least a dozen of these vicious serials running in Montreal at the present time, and the small boy — and small girl for that matter — who seeks a thrill in things get enough out of them to compare with the effects of a galvanic battery. They are not plays or stories. There is no plot beyond what will hold together a constant succession of sensations, digging into all the muck that the world holds and into a good deal more than the world, bad as it is, ever experienced. One of these is "The Mysteries of Myra". It is produced by Wharton, Incorporated, the story is by Edward Carrington, and the scenario is by Charles W. Goddard, all of which advertising matter is gladly contributed by the *Canadian Railroader*, free of charge.

This serial is an impossible concoction of the machinations of a "Black Order" making use of occult powers for evil purposes, and if the "dime novels" or "penny horrors" retarded the moral progress of the small boy, this serial effectually rolls him up and delivers him to perdition. There is no plot, and one wonders what Edward Carrington was paid for. There is no scenario except of the sort that any hack might do for board and lodging, and against his better conscience. In it there is a Bert



Reese. The impression is given that this Bert Reese is a professional medium of international renown — he is described at the "famous Bert Reese" — and he is used to lend force to some of the absurdities and atrocities of the serial, rendering them more absurd and more atrocious. If there is such a person as Bert Reese, professional medium, residing in the United States, we should mark him as an impostor first and try him afterwards, if we judged from his manner of lending himself to such a production as this serial. The acting — it simply will not bear analysis! Doubtless the poor characters in the story have to make a living, but they might at least do it decently as night watchmen or salesladies in a ten-cent store.

But the main point is that the thing is a rotten affair to show to children, and it is being shown to thousands of them every day in this city. Will somebody please stick a pin in the pants of the censors?

K. C.

## Freight Car Capacity of Canadian Railways

The capacity of freight cars on Canadian railways is shown in the following table, which is taken from the annual report of the Department of Railways and Canals for 1918:

	1915.		1917.		1918.	
	No.	Capacity in tons.	No.	Capacity in tons.	No.	Capacity in tons.
Box. . . . .	145,307	4,825,543	145,290	4,899,651	150,074	5,126,659
Flat. . . . .	25,315	798,671	25,322	816,245	23,414	759,768
Stock. . . . .	7,638	236,190	7,883	232,185	8,556	253,350
Coal. . . . .	15,703	611,020	15,649	538,609	16,949	692,785
Tank. . . . .	463	14,604	731	35,134	485	16,306
Refrigerator. .	4,713	139,350	5,234	155,510	5,893	176,890
Other. . . . .	2,551	99,677	3,390	137,122	3,664	141,012
Totals. . . . .	201,690	6,731,265	203,499	6,798,456	209,026	7,166,770

The capacity of 217 cars was not reported.

## THE GAZETTE'S ANSWER

(Continued from page 1.)

union affiliations to live up to and respect their contracts. International trades unionism has constantly educated the workers to respect contracts, because it is realized by every one that if the public in general ever reached the conclusion that a contract is habitually disrespected by the employer or the employee then trade unionism is bankrupt. There would be absolutely no object, no purpose and no gain in striving to effect contracts between employer and employees.

We all realize, whether we be rich or poor, whether we be employer or employee, that whatever is made by human hands or developed by the application of human brains develops imperfections. Contracts have been broken by both parties. We admit it sadly, and with regrets but it is true. But it is equally true that in the main contracts have been well respected by both. We are frank

to admit that we like to picture the bull standing in the placid pool, with the shade trees fashioning the pretty patterns of the summer upon the green and shaded banks, but once in a while, for reasons that are hard to understand, the animal will just naturally leave its pleasant environment for the nearest china closet. And then comes the usual upset of all the brie-a-brac. There is no use to bluster, and it is of no avail to cry. Tears will not mend the broken pieces. About all that remains it to gently lead the energetic bovine back to the slumbering pool—such is life.

NOTE.—In a forthcoming number we will endeavor to give you our views as to the question of strengthening the contract between capital and labor, and in the meantime please believe us when we say that we are earnestly in favor of justice for all—"for justice all places are temples and all seasons summer."

G. P.

## British Labor and the Whitley Scheme

(Christian Science Monitor.)

To those who have something more than a theoretical acquaintance with the Labor problem in any country, but especially in Great Britain, to those, that is, who know something of the workingman in his home, in his factory, and in his union, it is quite clear that one of the great stumbling-blocks to settlement is distrust.

Rightly or wrongly, the British workingman, in all too many instances, is convinced that he is being exploited. He reviews the years of the war, with their ever-growing disparities in the distribution of wealth, with their appalling sacrifices, and their patriotic subordination of special interests to general welfare. He recalls how, in season and out of season, he inveighed against profiteering, and made clear, in a thousand unmistakable ways, that, whilst he was willing to make any and every sacrifice for the good of the country, he was not willing to make any sacrifice at all for the good of the profiteer.

And then, having got so far, he recalls how he was told, again and again, during the war, now by this authority and now by that authority, that, as a matter of fact, there were not any war profits, that war profits were taxed out of existence, and how that if the employers seemed to be coining money at that time, it all, or the greater part of it, ultimately came back to the State.

To-day, he looks around him, and finds money apparently very cheap and very plentiful. He finds that much money has been made out of the war. And so, as he views the situation, he is inclined to conclude, and the extremist in his ranks is not slow to confirm him in the conclusion that he has been "bought, sold, and paid for". And, once so convinced, it is an easy step to the further conviction that all commissions and committees of inquiry and other authoritative machinery for securing adjustment, are but so many devices for shelving his demands and bolstering up the position of the employer.

Now the Labor leader does not think along these lines. He shares to the uttermost the impatience of the workingman at the existence of the profiteer, but he recognizes the stupendous nature of the problem, and the tremendous difficulties facing the authorities in dealing with it.

He also recognizes the good faith of these authorities. He may disapprove, or only half approve, their plans and schemes, but he is very far indeed from "lumping" these plans all together, and throwing over them, almost without analysis or

judgment, the wet blanket of distrust.

It is just the distrust that threatens to stifle the Whitley scheme in Great Britain. A calm, dispassionate view of the matter has, again and again, compelled the conclusion that this scheme, which aims at the establishment of "joint bodies of employers and employees for consultation and decision on matters of common interest", was based fairly and truly, and could only be productive of the best possible results.

That the utmost cooperation between Capital and Labor is necessary, if the utmost possible is to be achieved in the great work of production, is self-evident. The Whitley council scheme is wholly concerned with securing this cooperation. And yet the six largest trades in the country will have none of the plan. The engineers, the miners, the shipbuilders, the cotton operatives, the steel smelters, and the railway men are all alike, according to the latest statements, "steering clear of it". Why?

An adequate answer would undoubtedly include many reasons, but it would most certainly include this one, namely, distrust. On one authority put it, recently, in the columns of this paper, whenever organized Labor has succeeded in concentrating his forces in a demand for the solution of any given grievance, the result has invariably been the appointment of a commission to consider and report. Labor is tired of committees and commissions, and, without being at all clear as to the solution, has recourse to the negative attitude of distrust.

A complex question is before the country, but those men on both sides who see most clearly are beginning to recognize, first of all, that, by some means and in some way, distrust must be dissipated and mutual good faith restored.

They see, further, that one of the first steps toward this end must be a recognition of the simple fact that, in these days of ever-increasing enlightenment and change, even committees and commissions have not stood still; and that because a committee or a commission was simply a means of shelving an issue five years ago, or even twelve months ago, it does not, at all, follow that this is its function to-day.

Cooperation is necessary. Cooperation cannot be secured without reference. Conference cannot be productive without good will. The restoration of good will, therefore, is the first essential, and, to this end, it is very earnestly laid upon men of good will everywhere to "get together".



# The WOMAN'S FORUM

## BLIND TO EVERYTHING - BUT THE TRUTH

### MARRIAGE OF THE PHYSICALLY UNFIT

One of the most important changes which the war has rung in for women is the awakening of the sex to the necessity for transmitting a heritage of health to their offspring, for no greater torture can be imagined than that which pierces a mother's heart when she beholds her baby, a twisted misshapen thing that will never run or play like other children, or when she gazes into the lustreless eyes from which comes no gleam of intelligence, and vaguely realizes as she asks herself why this hideous injustice, that the curse has fallen, "the innocent must suffer for the guilty", and, as she fiercely gathers to her heart the "thing" which should, by all the laws of nature and birthright, be a rosy, laughing baby a cry as of a wounded tigress is heard, and another is added to the long list of women for whom life can never be quite the same again.

The day has passed when it would be considered indelicate for a woman to question if the man she is to marry is free from the taint of alcoholism, tuberculosis, insanity or venereal disease. Cases of young women whose lives have been wrecked through contracting venereal disease following marriage are too frequent to excite much comment, but when legislation is enacted which makes it a crime for the physically or mentally unfit to marry and propagate their kind, we shall have fewer mental defectives and other abnormalities to fill our institutions.

Men demand certain standards of purity in the women they elect to

marry, therefore a woman is equally entitled to inquire into the character of the man she is to take "for better or worse", and if a mother, father, or the girl herself demand from the man a "clean bill of health" such as he might be required to produce if entering military life, or which is even necessary in some cases where a man is about to fill an important civil position, the right sort of man will not object to a searchlight being turned on him, while such a course would undoubtedly show the other sort up in his true character, labelled "dangerous", and much misery might be averted. This does not mean that such a plan should be universally adopted, but where the slightest

as we now incarcerate in our prisons, murderers and other classes of criminals, as a menace to society, so also shall we regard the man infected by venereal disease who dares to flaunt the laws of God and man by entering into the marriage state, and bringing untold suffering on future generations.

### NURSING SISTERS GET EXTENDED HOLIDAYS

Matrons and nurses in the service of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Reestablishment will in future be granted leave of absence for two weeks in every six months.

Ordinarily the civil service allowance for holidays makes provision for eighteen days' holidays in a year. This extension has, however, been made for those on the nursing staff in view of the arduous nature of their duties.

### "A PLEA FOR WIDOWS' PENSIONS"

By Rose Henderson

A gaunt and pitiful figure  
At the close of day I see,  
A woman, alone and helpless,  
Caring for babies three.  
Pale and thin and worn,  
Shabby of clothes and sad,  
Never a hope for the morrow,  
Never an hour to be glad.

You ask, pray, why is she lonely?  
Why is she worn and sad?  
Why is she hopeless, disheartened?  
Why can she never be glad?  
Never an hour in the sunshine,  
Always the wolf at the door;  
Living in dread of starvation  
In face of earth's bountiful store.

Listen, 'tis an everyday story,  
A blot on our nation's fair name,  
A cause that has driven hundreds  
Of women and children to shame;  
It has wrenched little babes from  
their mother,  
It has blasted innocent lives,  
Sent hundreds of souls to destruction,  
Crushed thousands of toilers' wives.

She is one of the penniless widows,  
A victim of industry's greed,  
Whose husband was killed while on duty,  
Producing for profits and need.  
Now alone she must fight for her babies,  
Bowed by the weight of her load,  
Black lies the future before her,  
Always a hill on her road.

Ah, great is the nation whose mothers  
Have leisure to train and to plan;  
Ah, great is a mother's devotion  
And sacred the children of man,  
Oh, God, how long will we watch her  
Falter and labor in vain,  
Before we arise and defend her  
And lighten her burden and pain?



The rear of a typical Montreal slum dwelling.  
Note the dilapidation.



#### MAY THE BEST MAN WIN!

For the next few months outdoor sports will be in full swing, and suitable recognition of the victor will find its best expression in

A Mappin Trophy or Medal.

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doubt exists, no girl should rush blindly into marriage which she may regret all the days of her life.

Recently a conference on venereal diseases was called by the Dominion Government and a Canadian National Council for combating such diseases was formed, showing that the importance of ensuring to Canada a race of well born citizens is fully recognized. The cooperation of women is absolutely necessary in this work, however, and when the sex, high and low, unite to protect themselves and their unborn children against one of the most deadly foes of human welfare and happiness, much of the misery that is to-day chargeable to selfishness and bestiality will be eliminated, and even

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## OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

Glasgow, July 30.

In the midst of the present Labor unrest one cannot help recalling the thrilling words of Premier Lloyd George, in a recent speech, that our country must be made fit for heroes to live in. We are certainly not making a very good beginning. The outlook is very gloomy, and the workers are rising against the conditions of life being imposed upon them. It is the cry of the people for freedom to live — the "Freedom of Free People!" What a phrase! It has the breath of the wind across our Scottish moors. It sums up all the aspirations of the world. From the beginning unto now it is the goal of human effort. In the last five years millions of men have died, that it might be born.

What is the urge that drives us to destroy ordered systems of government, that will not let us rest content under any rule that is not our own? It is more than an idea, it is a possession of the spirit. It is not apprehended by those who are only looking for machinery by which the desires of men may be restrained, their appetites checked, their activities directed and their longings stilled. Such ask why there is unrest, why discontent, why under the arrangements that exist, inevitable if not admirable, men are not acquiescent, bowed to their circumstance, subordinate to their fate.

Such do not realize that to bind the free spirit of man for ever by the cords of any political and economic ties, however, cunningly entwined, is impossible. The story of the past is a story of the slow ordering of society, the slow release of the individual from captivity. The sea does not more eternally fret the rocks that bound its shores than does the continual chafe of the spirit of man under bondage dissolve and disintegrate the structure of society.

The dream of every statesman is of the State, the static thing that shall endure, changeless and unchanging. It is a dream. There are better things beyond. The path of man is a pilgrimage, and divested of all its religious significance we may still say, here we have no continuing city.

This then is the premise from which to draw our conclusions in this present period. It is a great period in which to be alive. To those who can visualize the march from past to present, who can realize the movement of the present, from this vantage point of time, where the world is a whispering gallery and space and time almost annihilated, there is an intensity of interest, an exhilaration of feeling, never possible before. Old Empires down, new States arising, East and West in union and dissidence, all the boundaries of the world in kaleidoscopic

change, was there ever such a spectacle to seize the eyes and stay the breath?

'Tis all a checker-board of nights and days  
Where Destiny with Men for pieces plays.

So old Omar, but in these days the pawns are speaking, they are choosing the squares, on which they will remain. That is the outstanding fact. The people are articulate. They can speak and speak with power. And they are speaking, sometimes with dreadful voice. The truth must be grasped that men and women are averse to a share in the work of reconstruction. They are not content to discharge their part in the making of a new world by putting a cross on a ballot paper. They desire to be employed, not only for their own gain, but in the common service. That is the problem, to engage the great army of volunteers that were so welcome in the war, in the work of peace, to devise some relationship between the citizen and the State, that shall widen his interest and deepen his sense of responsibility. We have a gift for solving political problems. Will we solve this? If, and only if, we approach it in the belief that the end of government is not to rule the people, but to enable the people to rule themselves, that the development of

government is without meaning if it fails to secure everywhere and for all time the freedom of free people.

### Teachers' Tribulations

Among the greatest problems of reconstruction awaiting solution is that of Scottish education. A new Act has been passed which has been acclaimed as the Children's Magna Charta. Liberal provision has been made by the Munro Act to place Scottish education on a higher plan than it has ever occupied. Great as its possibilities may be, greater still is the question of its administration. The success or non-success of the Act depends on the teachers. At present teachers are thoroughly dissatisfied with their salaries. They look around and find themselves out-fought in "the struggle of life". They seek a life that is no "struggle". They seek to be spared from the jarring re-terminations so inseparable from industrial disputes. Yet they are none the less determined to pursue their just cause to a successful issue.

Teachers who expect just treatment from the authorities are becoming not unnaturally apprehensive of the intentions of these bodies. They find, for example, that the Glasgow authority has appointed some 170 officials to administer the Act. The salaries of the humblest of these are in excess of those of their teachers. Committees have been set up. Free books have been sanctioned. No expense has been spared to ensure for the official a reward adequate to provide a moderately comfortable standard of living. The vital factor — the teacher — is last to be considered.

The significance of the present agitation for adequate salaries must not be underrated by those in high places. The vital force in the agitation is supplied by demobilised officers and men whose minds have been influenced by such promises as those of a country "fit for heroes" and of a world "safe for democracy". The Glasgow and Lanarkshire teachers are determined that their just claims shall be met. If the rates deny them satisfaction — they have no desire to prey on the rates — the Treasury which they have done so much to protect must disburse the difference. The teachers have been so optimistic, so wholehearted and energetic in their praise of the Act, which can be made a Children's Magna Charta — but only with their co-operation — that all these evidences of the official mind on the salaries' question are grievously disappointing. That their disappointment is only temporary, that the official mind may be changed, is the earnest hope of all who perform the greatest mission on earth.

### Ardrossan Housing.

The Local Government Board do not approve of two of the schemes for housing sites presented by the Ardrossan Town Council, and suggest that the Council should concentrate on a third site, at Parkhouse Road, which their inspector considers admirably suited for the erection of the 200 houses.

### A Literary War Worker.

Miss Mary Henderson, the Dundee lady who worked so hard for the Scottish Women's Hospitals, has given excellent proof of her literary capacities. She has published a volume entitled "In War and Peace". "The Cargo Boat", depicted in one of her poems, carried her to Archangel with medical stores.

James Gibson.

### LABOR SOCIALIZATION

At the International Trades Union Congress, at Amsterdam, Karl Legien, president of the German Federation of Trades Unions, strongly protested against Russia, Germany and Austria being excluded from representation at the International Labor Convention to be held in Washington in October. Mr. Legien pointed out that while these countries were to be excluded, all kinds of South American republics would be represented, as well as Liberia and Japan, with its 14-hour working day for children. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, explained the viewpoint of American Labor and replied energetically to Mr. Legien. The congress passed three resolutions, the first calling for the raising of the blockade on Russia, the second for socialization of labor, and the third fixing the standpoint of the proletariat with reference to the League of Nations.

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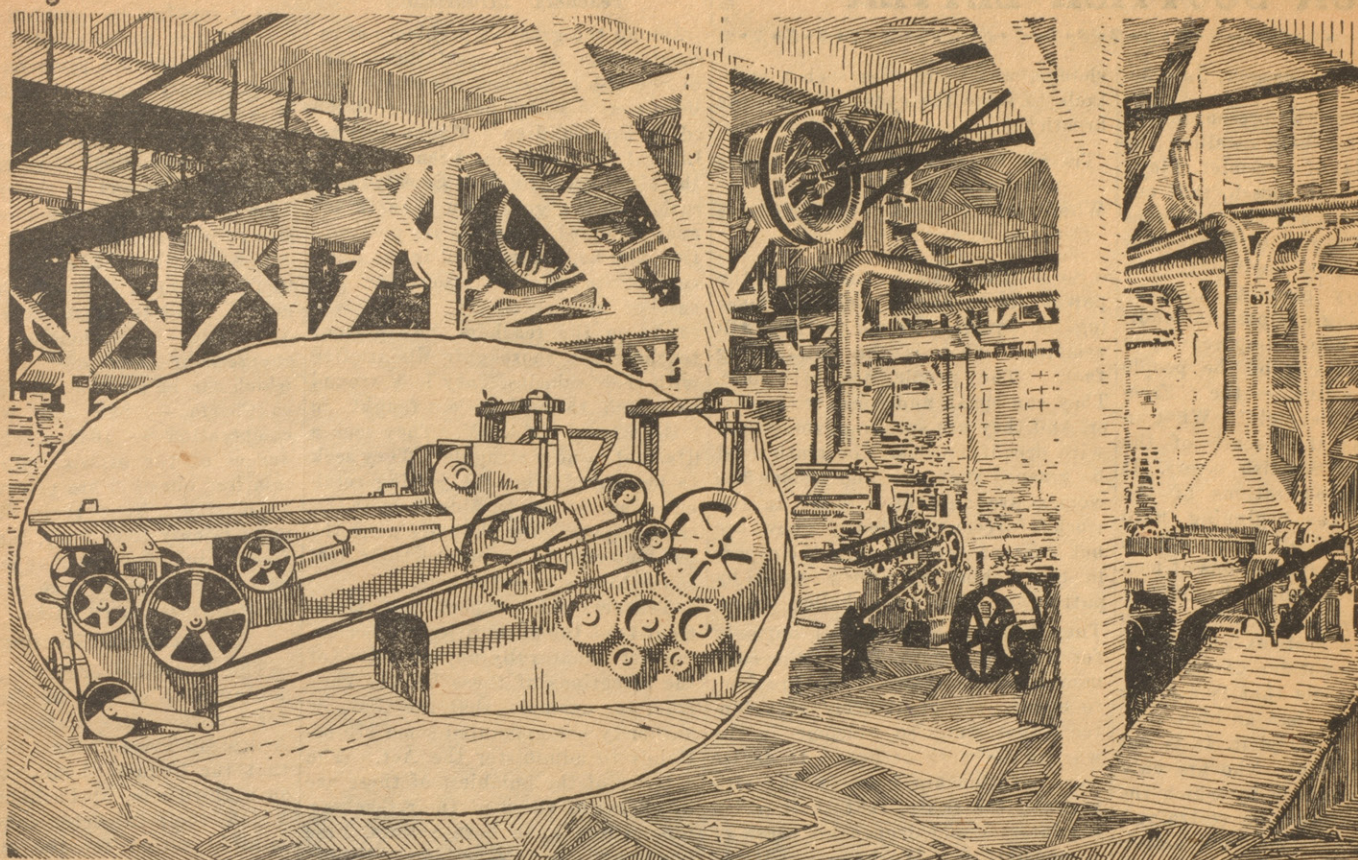


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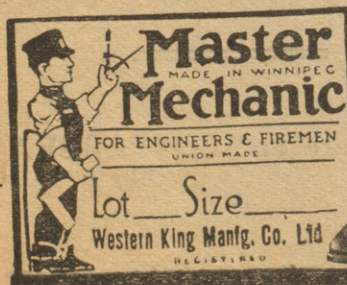
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